

Neenah Public Library Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes—July 17, 2024

The meeting of the Neenah Public Library Board of Trustees held on July 17, 2024, in the Shattuck Community Room, was called to order by Codner at 4:00 p.m.

Members present: Carol Codner, Tami Erickson (Aldermanic representative), Randy Fieldhack, Elizabeth Irish, Patricia Rickman, Harrison Flint (teen representative).

Members excused: Lisa Hemes, Michael Koller, Joshua Kutney, Jenn McMahon, George Schreck, and Alivia Haller.

Also present: Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm, director, Nancy Baird, circulation services manager, Katrina Wulff, youth services manager, Mehta Hess, adult services manager, Scott Becher, member of the public.

Minutes

Erickson arrived at 4:01 p.m.

On motion of Irish, seconded by Fieldhack, and unanimously approved, the Board agreed to invoke Article 4, Section 4 of its' bylaws, in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes, 43.54(1)(e) and proceed with a 5-person quorum.

Public Comments

Scott Becher explained he was there to observe and elaborated on his family's connection to the city and Library. He shared how impressed he is with the library.

Minutes

On a motion of Fieldhack, seconded by Erickson, and unanimously approved, the Board approved the Library Board meeting minutes of June 19, 2024.

Statistical Reports

Hardina-Wilhelm shared that visits are up 15%, physical circulation is up 5%. Program attendance is up 104%. Summer Lunches this year served 3,342, which is more than 700 more than last year.

Director's and Technical Services Report

Hardina-Wilhelm shared she has met with Danielle Florence, Community Health Strategist, to discuss options to expand summer lunches into July and August next year to meet the needs we see in the community. She also shared a story of a young patron from Canada who visited her grandparents in Neenah and proclaimed the Neenah Public Library to be the best library.

Department Reports

Adult Services Department

Hess mentioned the Dollar-A-Day Boys program, which had patrons remember their fathers or grandfathers being employed by the CCC, and shared a library story from a patron who values the Leap Into Writing group.

Circulation Services Department

Baird mentioned that the gate count and circulation have reached their highest levels since 2019. Additionally, she noted the successful installation of new self-check machines that are user-friendly, offer improved scanning capabilities, and include a "call for help" button to notify circulation staff across multiple computers when assistance is required. Baird also recounted a heartwarming tale about a toddler who joyfully dances and imitates a horse's neigh when the mystery bag is mentioned.

Youth Services Department

Wulff distributed the flyer for youth and family fall programs, featuring additional story times for the fall: one sensory-friendly and one at the Fox Crossing Municipal Building. She also mentioned a story from a parent with limited mobility that values the safe and accessible experiences they can have with their child in the library, and how many thousands of dollars they have saved using the library.

Bills for Consideration

On the motion of Fieldhack, seconded by Irish, the Board unanimously approved payment of the July bills.

Budget Process

Finance and Personnel Chair Codner will email committee members to setup a meeting to go over the proposed budget before the next board meeting.

Next regularly scheduled meeting

Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Shattuck Community Room.

Adjournment

On motion of Fieldhack, seconded by Erikson, the Library Board adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mehta Hess". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mehta Hess